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27 July 1977

Executive Registry
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Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

You may recall our conversation before you left Norfolk concerning the strategy and policy curriculum at Old Dominion University. The Certificate and Masters level programs have been quite successful and the officers who have elected them have been the sharpest and most dedicated group of students I have been privileged to know.

I would like to solicit your thoughts on a proposed doctoral program in Military History and Strategic Studies which the History Department is submitting this fall. It is based on the philosophy of the Naval War College curriculum and is also designed primarily for the professional military officer. A basic concept to us is that a thorough study of history is the foundation for the theoretical and contemporary studies which will balance the program. At every stage we would design explorations into context, cause, and effect. Such a doctorate would be unique. We are very excited about the idea, as are the scholars we have so far consulted.

One problem is state reluctance to fund any new doctorate in the face of financial limitations and a popular view of Ph.Ds walking the streets. We need to demonstrate conclusively the need for such doctoral study and that it will enhance existing careers rather than burden a tight job market. We would like to hire a senior professor with an international reputation to head the program, but as costs are crucial, we are prepared to proceed at first with a request to fund a part-time or consulting position, perhaps for a retired scholar. The budget will be tight. Luckily, our library is fairly good and the university has a dedicated core of mid-career faculty in the military history/international relations area to carry much of the burden of the program.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a flyer on the current Certificate and Masters level S&P program and a copy of the preliminary letter of intent for the Ph.D in Military History and Strategic Studies.

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We would be very appreciative of any thoughts and suggestions you may have concerning the proposed Ph.D program as a concept or in any specific aspect.

I have been following with great interest your recently published articles. Your piece in January's Foreign Affairs is full of common sense which I hope will become more commonly shared than in the past. At least it should be required reading of every member of Congress.

Finally let me extend my most sincere wishes for the success of your efforts in your current assignment

With best regards



Willard C. Frank, Jr.  
Associate Professor of History